

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-11 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new Claims 12-21 as follows.

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A method for applying to a recording medium a liquid consisting of a first liquid composition and a second liquid composition, each of the liquid compositions comprising a functional substance, an amphiphilic block copolymer, and a liquid medium, with a pH and a pKa of an organic acid group or a salt of the organic acid group of the copolymer of the first liquid composition being different than a pH and a pKa of an organic acid group or a salt of the organic acid group of the copolymer of the second liquid composition, wherein an increase in viscosity of the first liquid composition is caused by a decrease in pH of the first liquid composition on contact with the second liquid composition.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the first liquid composition is greater than the second liquid composition in pKa of the organic acid group or the salt of the organic acid group of the copolymers.

14. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the difference between the pKa of the organic acid groups or the salts of the organic acid groups contained in the copolymers of the first and second compositions is 0.3 or more, and a difference between a pH of the first and second liquid compositions is 0.3 or more.

15. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the difference between the pKa of the organic acid groups or the salts of the organic acid groups contained in the copolymers is 2 or more.

16. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the pKa of at least one of the organic acid groups or the salts of the organic acid groups is 2 or less.

17. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the organic acid groups are selected from benzoic acid groups, aliphatic dicarboxylic acid groups, aromatic dicarboxylic acid groups, halogen-substituted benzoic acid groups, and sulfonic acid groups.

18. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the amphiphilic block copolymer has an alkenyl ether as a repeating monomer unit.

19. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the functional substance is enclosed by the amphiphilic block copolymer.

20. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the functional substance is a colorant.

21. (New) An apparatus for liquid application, comprising a liquid applying means for applying the liquid by the method of claim 12 and a driving means for driving the liquid applying means.